



# Orange County District Attorney

## *Press Release*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Gang Task Force Breaks Up Multi-Million Dollar Counterfeit Clothing and Tax Stamp Operation**

WESTMINSTER – A district attorney task force arrested two men yesterday in connection with a counterfeit operation that made more than \$5 million worth of counterfeit clothing labels and cigarette tax stamps.

Hieu Vinh (Anthony) Hoangthan (DOB 8-11-57) and Phuoc Da (David) Ngo (DOB 4-9-70) each face charges of multiple counts of bookmaking, forgery, grand theft, possession of counterfeit trademark items for sale and numerous felony tax code violations, including tax evasion. The two will be arraigned on November 1<sup>st</sup> in the West Orange County Justice Center.

Hoangthan and Ngo were arrested Wednesday at their Westminster homes which were searched by RGET Investigators along with another house within the city that was used as a storage facility. The locations were 15661 Butterfield St., 14552 Benchley Cir. and 15811 Exeter St.

RGET investigators had been working on this case for about two months. They seized: \$5 million worth of counterfeit labels to be placed in jeans and T-shirts for such famous manufacturers as Polo by Ralph Lauren, DKNY, Nike and Tommy Hillfiger. Also seized were: \$36,000 worth of counterfeited clothing, evidence pointing to a \$500,000-per-month bookmaking operation and 42,504 counterfeit cigarette tax stamps which are valued at 87 cents each and represent a loss to the state of nearly \$37,000.

The pair belong to a gang and were targeted by the **Orange County Regional Gang Enforcement Team (RGET)** which is comprised of members from the District Attorney's Office; Orange County Probation; Orange County Sheriff; California Department of Justice, California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement; U.S.Treasury Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the police departments of **Westminster**, Fullerton, Anaheim, Garden Grove and Santa Ana.

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